MEMORANDUM

Date: April 30, 2021

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
   Pima County Board of Supervisors
From: C.H. Huckelberry
   County Administrator

Re: Pima County Public Schools Task Force Group (CT-HD-21-336)

At a recent Board meeting, a comment was made regarding the vaping program grant and Pause for Change.

The attached memorandum from the Health Department Director identifies the 19-member task force where the Superintendent of Schools Office and the Health Department Tobacco Program is cooperating to assist school districts in vaping issues. The memorandum discusses the current status of various activities, including various work of the task force and a final report being prepared.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator
   Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
   Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer, Health and Community Services
   Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department
Date: April 26, 2021

To: Chuck Huckleberry
County Administrator

From: Theresa Cullen, MD, MS
Health Department Director

Via: Francisco García, MD, MPH
Deputy County Administrator

Re: Pima County Public Schools Task Force Group (CT-HD-21-336)

The Pima County Health Department (PCHD) Tobacco Program, in partnership with the Pima County Superintendent’s Office, launched a 19-member Pima County Public Schools Task Force (PCTFG) in 2019 to address the epidemic of vaping in Pima County public schools. The PCTFG includes administrative representatives from all Public School Districts, and representatives have been appointed by each School District Superintendent. Members of the PCTFG, and the school districts they represent, are:

1. Robert Dooley, Ajo Unified School District
2. Cherie Gaither, Amphi Unified School District
3. Everette Velasquez, Baboquivari Unified School District
5. Josef Torres, Flowing Wells Unified School District
6. Nicole Pargas, Marana Unified School District
7. Tanya Read, Marana Unified School District
8. Brice Menaugh, Pima County Joint Technical Education District
9. Jane Ballasteros, Pima County Schools Superintendent's Office
10. Matt Stamp, Pima County Schools Superintendent's Office
11. Dustin Williams, Pima County Schools Superintendent's Office
13. Eugenia Favela, Sunnyside Unified School District
14. Eyan Powell, Sunnyside Unified School District
15. Scott Hagerman, Tanque Verde Unified School District
17. Brian Lambert, Tucson Unified School District
18. Nikki Stefan, Tucson Unified School District
19. Kevin Carney, Vail Unified School District

Members will continue to meet in 2021 to gain a better understanding of the obstacles school districts are facing regarding youth vaping, and will create meaningful solutions for addressing the identified needs. Workforce development, technical assistance, coaching, evaluation, documentation and a final report documenting task force efforts will be provided by Pause for Change (PFC) and submitted to PCHD’s Tobacco Program funding grantor: The Arizona Department of Health Services.

Pause for Change, founded by Ms. Heather Hiscox, focuses on collaborating with community groups to identify and frame challenges, assess uncertainty, understand stakeholders, prioritize potential solutions, and process data and insights to inform future actions. The Pause for Change team has worked with
Mr. Huckelberry

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PCHD on this youth vaping prevention initiative closely, and has worked locally with City of Tucson, Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, Interfaith Community Services, Pima Community College, Pima County Public Library, and many other non-profit and governmental agencies in Pima County. Their experience working with PCTFG members and various partners make them uniquely qualified to work with PCHD on their continual efforts to address the vaping prevention needs of Pima County school district and, we believe, will provide the greatest return on investment. Their efforts will not only assist PCHD in addressing vaping among youth, but also create sustainable efforts moving forward that reflect the needs of school administrators and staff as it relates to tobacco and vaping prevention.

Pause for Change incorporates youth voices and perspectives by engaging with local STAND (Students Taking a New Direction) youth tobacco coalitions. STAND is Arizona’s anti-tobacco youth coalition effort for Arizona teens. These youth coalitions aim to reduce youth tobacco initiation and exposure to secondhand smoke through community involvement, peer-to-peer education and advocating for environmental, policy, and system-level changes. The youth coalitions, in partnership with PCHD and other influential leaders in the community provide information and guidance to the task force through youth led presentations and reports.

c: Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator